

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, The Franklin Hotel was completed in 1903, by the Deadwood Club, a group of investors led by Nathan Franklin, the son of Harris Franklin who began building the hotel as a challenge laid down by city promoters for a prestigious metropolitan hotel; and,

Whereas, The Franklin is the oldest continuously operated hotel in South Dakota, looking much the same as it did during its inaugural ball on June 4, 1903, which gained the reputation of being the finest hotel between Chicago and San Francisco; and,

Whereas, Bill Walsh, President and General Manager of the Hotel, along with his Board of Directors, began restoring the Franklin to its former glory in 1990, with a two and a half million dollar restoration plan; and,

Whereas, The Franklin retains much of its original grandeur with its two-story Greek columns that support an outside portico and columns in the lobby that support a pressed tin ceiling. Visitors are also greeted by a 12- by 15-foot fireplace, a floor of ceramic mosaic tile, a working 1911 Otis elevator, and the original reception desk and back bar; and,

Whereas, The Franklin's history includes being the site of the first radio broadcast in South Dakota, a swimming hole and ice skating pond for city youths at the turn of the century, and as the only place in the entire city to have public restrooms during the Depression; and,

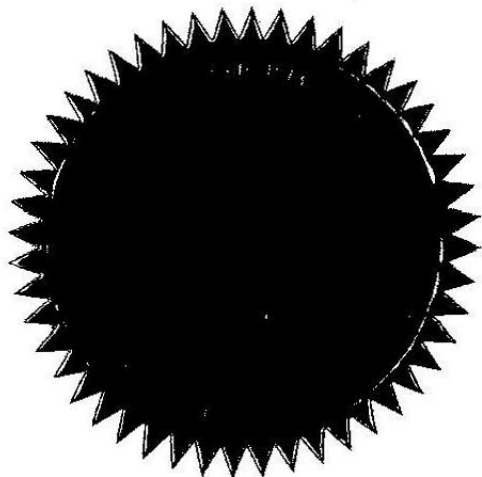
Whereas, The Franklin draws the famous and the infamous and their friends – past and present, as noted by the names of the guest rooms and suites – for rollicking good times, a bit of gaming, a taste of the Old West, people-watching from rockers on the front porch, or celebrations in the Emerald Room; and,

Whereas, Bill Walsh is known for his sincere hospitality and graciousness, his wonderful stories, and his love for the colorful history of Deadwood and The Historic Franklin Hotel:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim June 2003, as

FRANKLIN HOTEL MONTH


in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-fifth Day of June in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.


M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State